

February 18, 2004
Citizen Budget Forum
Via Linda Senior Center

City Planning & Code Enforcement Services

Comments on Highest Priority Programs

- Citizen & Neighborhood (CNR) Admin - Mobility of citizens within Scottsdale
- CNR Information Resources – Education, communication and citizen involvement
- Code Enforcement – Best in class neighborhoods; housing maintenance/yard maintenance
- Code Enforcement – Supports the residential structure of the neighborhood
- Customer Services & Admin - Gives a positive opinion of our city government
- Economic Development – Looking ahead – assume population growth and resources required will balloon – sales tax & property taxes will act as a brake on future growth if they continue to rise – Tourism cannot be a major source looking a head for a revenue loss.
- Economic Development - Affordable housing lost to Indian reservation. Increase funding-increase taxes.
- Economic Development - No incentives to locate business in Scottsdale. Some incentives o.k.: infrastructure for new business.
- Economic Development - Lost revenue to reservation?
- Housing Rehabilitation & ADA – As city grows in population numbers of low income increase
- Hospitality Development – special events need to be broadened in scope to attract tourists from abroad.
- Hospitality Development - Supports our tax base
- Preservation - Maintain natural environment
- Revitalization - Growth & progress.

Comments on Lowest Priority Programs

- CNR Information Resources - Call customer services
- CNR Information Resources - What purpose?
- Current Planning Services - Duplication w/planning & design services
- The Downtown Group - Is this self pay?
- Economic Development - Combine w/economic vitality
- Economic Vitality Admin - Combine w/economic development
- Hospitality Development - Partnership
- Hospitality Development- There's a limit on how much you can tax people!!
- Inspection & Land Survey Services - I'm told Scottsdale will be built out in '04. Who needs an inspector!
- Planning & Design Services - Duplication w/current planning services
- Plan Review & Permit Services - Streamline/easier/lower fees/more compliance
- Preservation - Not a priority to spend millions on the purchase of rock and dirt at this time. We need tax producing income at this time!
- Preservation - Concerned over finance methods and insistence on maintaining or growing Desert Preserve.

Leisure, Cultural and Human Services

Comments on Highest Priority Programs

- Arts & Cultural Services - Scottsdale - people move here and expect a certain level in this area.
- Arts & Cultural Services - Please consider finding, affording more money for acquiring the Winfield Scott Sculpture.
- Arts & Cultural Services - Critical to Scottsdale's identity.
- Arts & Cultural Services - Please consider finding, affording more money for acquiring the Winfield Scott Sculpture.

- Custodial Services/Construction Services/Contract and Project Management/Grounds & Landscape Maintenance - Maintain Scottsdale appearance
- Custodial services - Important in order to keep Scottsdale facilities sanitary and clean and to make good impression for visitors and residents.
- Facilities Maintenance & Grounds – All Maintenance.
- Library Operations/Main Library/Branch Libraries/Library Planning & Administration - A needed foundation for youth and expected by all ages
- Parks & Recreation Planning - El Dorado park very impressive; great job done by city.
- Senior Citizen Services/Social Services Asst. & Ref./Housing Asst. & CDBG Prog./Human Services Planning & Admin. - Population aging=increased needs. Any assistance to help stay out of nursing homes/assisted living=people have independence/dignity and less costly to individual, family and society
- Senior Citizen Services (senior centers) - Should be a priority for the city. These programs may allow the elderly to live independently longer before they have to enter nursing homes/dependent care facilities.
- Senior Citizen Services/Social Services Asst. & Ref./Housing Asst. and CDBG Prog./Human Services Planning & Admin – Maintaining connection with a community and seniors
- WestWorld - Would also like to see that WestWorld is maintained and enhanced for equestrian use and less for other types of events.
- Youth Activities & After School Programs / Community Rec. Services & Fac. / Leisure Education Programs – Have more youth centers in the community
- Youth Activities & After School Programs - Important since they are the city's future. Kids need supplemental educational programs after school/need somewhere to go after school besides the "streets".

Comments on Lowest Priority Programs

- Adult sports and fitness programs - A low priority since many adults can afford and coordinate their own physical activity.
- Aquatics - Programs should be low priority due to the number of residential pools in Scottsdale.
- Human Services Planning & Admin. – Combine with Community Services.
- Libraries - The city's libraries are already in good shape and there are enough of them. Therefore, libraries should be a lesser priority.
- Medians & Right of Way – Can Volunteers do this?
- Medians and right-of-way - Should be a low priority simply because money can be spent in better ways on direct service programs.
- Professional Baseball - Up price to attend
- Professional Baseball - Too much focus and money spent on professional baseball. City resources could be used in a better way, not on rich ballplayers.
- Trails & Equestrian Facilities - People who can afford to ride aren't as needy as some others?
- Trails and equestrian facilities - Low priority because the upper class should be able to support and afford their own space.
- WestWorld - Should not be a high priority for Scottsdale -- there's enough recreational activities available in the city. Focus should be shifted to more community efforts and programs.

Public Safety Services

Comments on Highest Priority Programs

- Bicycle Patrol - Higher fines
- Burglary & Theft Investigations - For safety of our homes & ourselves
- Burglary & Theft Investigations - To reduce burglary
- Crime Prevention - We need higher penalties
- Fraud Investigations - For overall privacy
- General Fire Protection - Big ticket budget item
- Mounted Patrol – Wonderful P.R. / Great presence in community

- Narcotics Undercover Investigations - Get drugs off street
- Office of the Chief - Leadership required
- Patrol Services - Visible behavior change
- Patrol Services – Citizens on street savor first live response.
- Police Supply & Equipment - Provides the link to officers safety
- Traffic Enforcement - Visible behavior change-politically high profile with large audience
- Traffic Enforcement - To have people slow down, I walk a lot
- Traffic Enforcement – Higher fines
- Training / Police Supply & Equipment - Not only is training important but a trained officer needs adequate protection
- Violent Crimes Investigations - Solve violent crimes

Comments on Lowest Priority Programs

- Auto Theft Investigations - Beyond Police control
- Bicycle Patrol – Do not have that much involved in it.
- Court - More efficient add equipment
- Court - Liberal judiciary
- Event Traffic Control/Special Event/Off Duty Coordination - Volunteers could be trained to do this job
- False Alarm Reduction Program - Staffed by non-police personnel
- False Alarm Reduction Program - Although it reduces cost if has nothing to do with safety
- False Alarm Reduction Program - They are always false
- Internal Affairs – Fold into Office of the Chief
- Office of the Chief - Rank and file must have priority
- Recruiting & Personnel - Superior force

Transportation & Utility Services

Comments on Highest Priority Programs

- Residential Refuse Collection - Basic service
- Residential Refuse Collection - Keeps my residence clean; love monthly curbside pickup
- Transit - Important to improve if we're serious about congestion mitigation
- Transit - Reverse budget cuts of this fiscal year
- Transit - Bus system for handicap – wrong place to cut budget. Dial-A-Ride program and handicap accessibility for mass transit very important to the elderly/disabled.
- Traffic Engineering - Planning/control is important-it is integral part of public safety
- Traffic Engineering - Congestion a major challenge to Scottsdale quality of life
- Transportation Master Planning - Include bikes & pedestrians
- Transportation Master Planning - Interaction with neighboring regional government entities critical
- Transportation Master Planning - Quality of life issue going forward
- Water Conservation - I lived for 4.5 years with running water only 10 hours out of every 24.
- Water Distribution - Need for healthy water
- Water Production - Basic need/service
- Water Production - We are in long-term drought and Scottsdale's advanced preparation may make a difference.

Comments on Lowest Priority Programs

- Household Hazardous Waste Program - Less significant than potable water or safe travel
- Household Hazardous Waste - Questions limited impact
- Irrigation Water Distribution System - High cost for more golf courses
- Planet Ranch Water Rights - May be better to divest
- RWDS Administration - Cost for accommodating golf courses
- Street Cleaning - Seems somewhat trivial
- Street Cleaning - Could be less - some is city's personnel

- WestWorld Golf and Recharge/Inlet golf Course Irrigation - Golf should pay its own way, not be subsidized
- WestWorld Golf and Recharge - Understand importance of West World in terms of Sales tax revenues but we have other golf courses and polo is an anachronism.

In difficult economic times how would you prefer the City respond?

- A. - We will have difficult times. I don't think I would want to increase taxes.
- I think would all try to stay within our budgets! If we can! Like we all have to do!
- A. - Combine like efforts (departments)
- A. - In general, I'm for lower taxes so I'd like to see inflows=outflows. I have no objections to holding budget surpluses to a reasonable level in good times.
- B. - We don't want to retrogress regarding the high quality of life associated with our city. City's property tax rates were lowered last year by council, even as we're looking at raising sales taxes. Property taxes should not have been lowered. Sales taxes area heavier burden upon low-income citizens.
- B. - Growing population demand and expectation drive requirement for additional coverage and services. Will create need for increased revenues.
- C. - Need to look for ways to economize while minimizing impact on services. Absolutely should pursue new revenue sources to keep quality up.
- C. - Nothing exists in a vacuum or is simplistic. Choices in taxes can seldom be arbitrary.
- C. - Everyone would like to see reductions in expenses, if it can be done without a material impact on quality of life. Problem is, it usually seems that the quality of like areas - parks, arts, etc are first to be cut. Some areas could be covered by user fees.
- C. - As we do in our lives in hard times. So must the City do. Suck it in!
- C. - Reduce all non-essential services and cut personnel. Increase revenue through sales tax and possibly property taxes.
- C. - Citizen review of line item budget item in every city department would save the taxpayers money and/or allow for re-prioritization of funds.
- C. - Prioritize and get creative.
- C. - Reducing budget by offloading services and reducing benefits paid out. Do not reduce services. See if you can get private donations.
- C. - Does the city have a cost improvement program? Are pay increases based on performance or across the board? Look at fees and fines.

Where do you think the money should come from?

- All - If more funds are needed then, whichever is most equitable and approved by voters.
- Sales/Property/User - Increase or establish user fees for bars, to offset cost of police and clean up services.
- Property/User - Our property are unusually low and property tax provides a steady/constant revenue stream when compared to sales tax.
- Property/User/Service - Don't think sales taxes should be raised much higher.
- Property/User/Service - Need to explore all options (not sales tax – close to max) and consider our competitive position. May cost us more but is worth it!
- Property/User/Service Charges – Sales Tax is high enough. Scottsdale property values keep appreciating; local tax rates can bear a more progressive rate structure.
- User / Service - Public expectation for superior service without increased taxation is real. Fairness and distribution of revenue responsibility supports user of services to pay instead of general fund. Sales tax weight. Already too high and could impair economic development.
- User/Other - Scottsdale has the lowest court fines-increase them. Pay according to usage. Not increase sales tax, we need to remain competitive.
- User - User fees seem to be best able to target those who benefit from the services provided.
- User – If we need to raise revenue.
- User - Let visitors pick up the slack as is done in other cities.

- Other - Private donations and fines should be raised
- Other - Federal funding, impact fees, private sector dollars, land trades.
- Other – Need a city task force similar to Gov. Napolitano's on revising tax structures.

Cost reduction ideas

- Outsource/Sell Services/Charge for free services.
- Some of the feedback from tonight they need to look at – see what can do without! If we can!
- Less money spent for beautification, trollies, turf for a temporary dog run. More volunteer programs.
- Cost a critical eye upon: outside consultant costs. Printing services many and expensively printed materials.
- Despite it being my highest priority, I could see reducing the monthly curbside pick-up to once every 6 weeks to 2 months.
- I don't think cost reductions should come by continued lack of raises for staff, reduction in health insurance, pension etc. We'd lose in the long run because many of best and brightest would be lured away.
- Trash-brush pickup on demand – rather than scheduled
- I like prefab plans for homeowner improvement-one stop shop fees (high) may discourage compliance. I think the low flow toilet, landscape and other H2O saving programs. Periodic neighborhood cleanups with city provided garbage bins. ASU student rentals are a big problem in our neighborhood.

General Comments

- We have good city government here. Thanks to city employees!
- I have been nothing but impressed with the treatment I have received from Scottsdale city employees-refuse collection, water/sewer rate adjustment, etc.
- 1. Should provide criteria for ranking. 2. Should rank with more focused categories. It's hard to say water is more or less important than wastewater or transportation. 3. Rating form includes items not applicable – unclear.
- What is the status of improvements on Hayden from Shea to Redfield (were to have begun in 2004).
- Need to establish a serious bike/pedestrian transportation program.